

## REPORT ON THE TENSIONS OF EUROPE SUMMER SCHOOL “BORDERS AND CRISES IN EUROPEAN PAST AND PRESENT – ANGLES FROM THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY”, GREECE (ATHENS), 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2017

### Aims

Between 5 and 7 September 2017, the summer school “Borders and Crises in European Past and Present – angles from the history of technology” took place at the Seminar room in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, as a pre-conference event of the 8<sup>th</sup> Tensions of Europe Conference (Athens, 7-10 September 2017; see <http://8toe2017.phs.uoa.gr/>).

The summer school aimed at introducing PhD’s and early career scholars to the Tensions of Europe network (<http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/>) as well as to facilitate and encourage network between young scholars across borders, while building their academic skills. The summer school further related to the overall conference theme, problematizing how history of technology contributes to the study of border related phenomena. It also aimed at revisiting the close connections between borders and technology by focusing on another keyword, which is related to the on-going discussion of Tensions of Europe future research agenda: crises (see <http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/www/en/news/building-a-future-research-agenda>). Following the main objective of the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars’ Group, the event focused on network building through workshops, discussions and informal events.

### Support

The summer school had the kind support of the Organizing Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> Tensions of Europe Conference, which supplied the room (and the room facilities, such as a projector and internet connection), the coffee-breaks and the lunches (held in the same location) and also of the ToE Management Committee and the Foundation for the History of Technology, which funded the travel grants: in the travel grant form distributed this year it was clear that the participation in the summer school was an important criteria for getting the grant. This was a significant support allowing for the event to happen. This financial support included, per participant, a travel grant up to a maximum of 300€ (to be reimbursed after the conference by the office of the Foundation for the History of Technology) and a conference fee waiver (which covered the participation in the conference, welcome reception, lunch- and coffee-breaks, guided tours, and conference banquet).



We also had the support of the scholars who accepted to contribute to the summer school sessions, in some cases traveling earlier to Athens (than it was required for the conference) at their own expenses.

### Participants

The summer school was organised by Anna Åberg, Elena Kochetkova, M. Luísa Sousa and Elitsa Stoilova, on behalf of the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group. Aristotle (Telly) Tympas, Huub Dijstelbloem, Tirza Meyer, Andreas Fickers, Karena Kalmbach and Mikael Hård also contributed to specific sessions.

The call for participation (which asked for short bio and text to be submitted until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017) received 17 applications, from which 16 were accepted. From these 16 potential participants, 12 participants attended (they were asked to confirm their participation until 30<sup>th</sup> June): Alexia Papazafeiropoulou, Ekaterina Rybkina, Falk Flade, Ginevra Sanvitale, Henk-Jan Dekker, Johan Gärdebo, Matthew O'Neill, Patrick Bek, Saara Matala, Sanne Aagaard Jensen, Stavroula Michael, Stevienna (Stevie) de Saille.

Besides these participants, some colleagues (PhD students and recent post-docs) from the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens also attended some sessions of the summer school.

Contrary to the first summer school organised by the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group (Stockholm, 1-3 September 2015), and also to other activities promoted by this group, this one had no virtual participants.

## Structure and content

In order to promote network building, the summer school was organized to a large extent around workshops and group discussion. The ideas for this organisation were taken from the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group virtual meeting held on 10 January 2017, and the schedule (see below) reflected the suggestions made there: it included one session for introductions, one lecture, two sessions on writing and publication, one workshop on the topic of crises, one session on funding opportunities, one wrap-up session, and one session on current research projects.

	Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep.
9:00-9:30	S1: Opening	S6: Writing and publishing workshop (with Andreas Fickers)	Wrap-up discussion
9:30-10:00	S2: A presentation exercise where everyone gets to know each other and their work better		(also concerning future workshops, activities etc. )
10:00-10:30			Coffee- break
10:30-11:00		Coffee- break	Panel Discussion: Europe, Borders, Technology: Ongoing Research Projects  Participants: Shahram Koshravi, Annalisa Pelizza, Dagmara Jajeśniak Quast and Aristotle Tympas
11:00-11:30	Coffee- break	S7: Workshop/discussion about the concept of crises (with Anna Åberg and Karena Kalmbach)	
11:30-13:00	S3: Lecture by Aristotle Tympas		
13:00-14:30	Lunch break		
14:30-16:00	S4: Writing and publishing workshop (with Huub Dijkstra)	S8: Workshop/discussion about the concept of crises. (cont.)	
16:00-16:30	Coffee- break		
16:30-18:00	S5: writing and publishing workshop (cont.)	S9: Session on funding (with Mikael Hård)	8 <sup>th</sup> Tensions of Europe Conference

The first day opened with a presentation by Elitsa Stoilova on the aims and work developed since 2014 by the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group (S1), followed by an introduction of all the participants (S2), to whom it was asked to prepare a 5 minutes presentation of themselves and of their work.



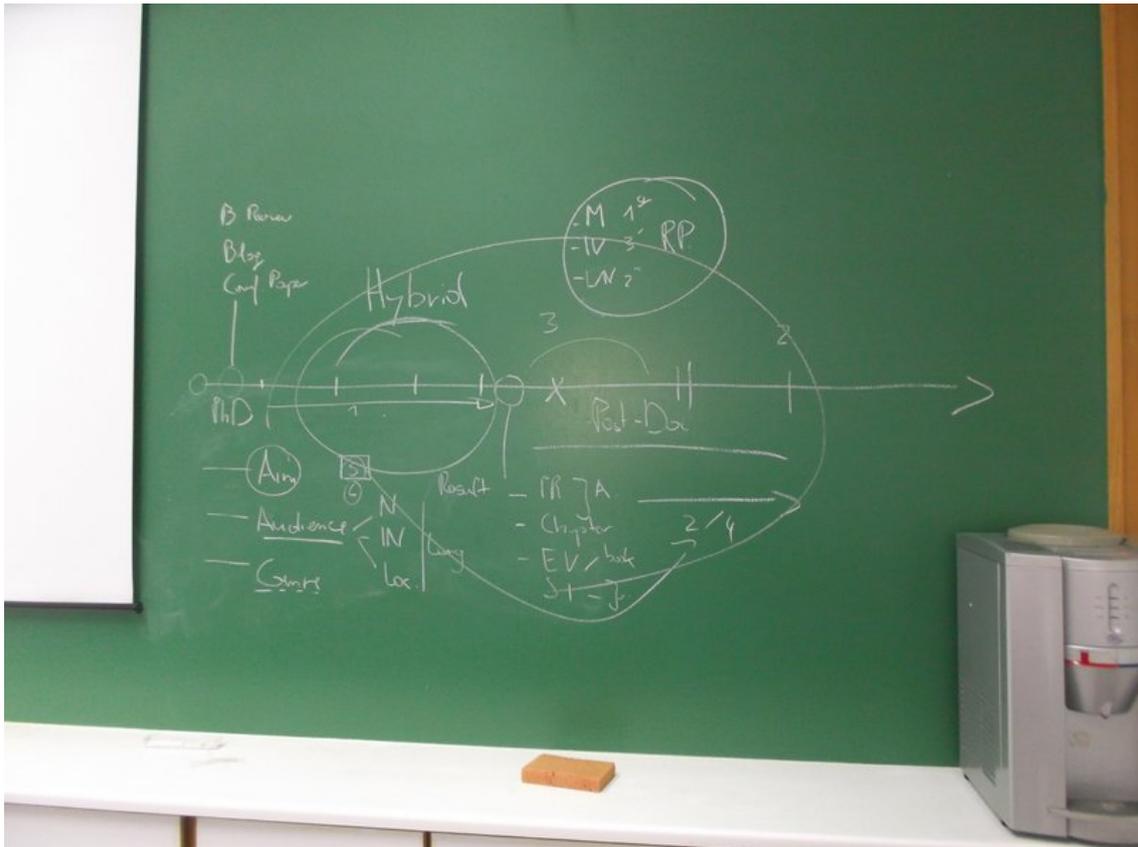
The lecture “Technology and borders: historiographical considerations” was presented by Aristotle (Telly) Tympas (S3) addressing the theme of the conference, namely the co-shaping of borders and technology, on the one side, giving examples of migrants and the encounters (called by Telly as “technological clashes”) between the technologies used by both sides of the EU borders. On the other hand, it also discussed the moral and social responsibility of the scholar – a topic which would also appear in the other sessions. Methodological and theoretical issues were also touched upon in the lecture, e.g. Actor Network Theory’s principles (namely Latour’s work); technologies in use (Edgerton); technopolitics (Hecht).



The writing session (S4/S5) had two time-slots of 1h30 each and was promoted by Huub Dijstelbloem and Tirza Meyer (who could not be in Athens), with the assistance of Elitsa Stoilova and M. Luísa Sousa. Participants were asked to submit a short text and to read pre-circulated texts that concerned the role of the scholar towards society (namely the public historian), the role of humanities and of the universities in general. Additional texts dealing with border studies were also pre-circulated. Several types of publications were presented as examples that illustrate different aims, expectations and “impact” of the scholars’ work. The second part of this session was done in the open air, with the participants divided into four groups that aimed at answering some of the questions raised during the previous discussion: when is a (hi)story ready to be told and how does this fit in my research career? How to write the headline and choose the main message of an internet post? How to find creative ways of doing research outputs that don’t involve money? The session ended with the sharing by all groups’ results and the thought process these questions carried for them.



The second day was opened with a session on publishing (S6) promoted by Andreas Fickers, with the assistance of M. Luísa Sousa. Andreas presented a timeline that aimed to stand as a proposal for a publication strategy, according to the phase in which a scholar (particularly, early career scholar) is (beginning, middle, end of PhD thesis, early post-doc, etc.). In this proposal, each phase was presented as having different aims (be known, showing results), audiences (local, national, international; academic/other publics), and genres (blogs, conference paper, newspaper articles, book reviews, exhibition review essays, research articles (for journals or as book chapters), monographs, pod-casts, video essays, book reviews, research proposals), all of which should be considered by the individual scholar in the long run. Linked to this issue, other topics were discussed as part of a publication strategy such as the time it takes to publish different genres, the importance of building a network of scholars, and of establishing contacts with publishers. Andreas insisted that a hybrid strategy (a mixture of a “classical” publication strategy, to an academic public, with an “alternative” publication strategy, using “new” media, exploring the technologies of storytelling, to reach a broader audience) would be a very interesting strategy for scholars. After this presentation, all the participants shared their aims and expectations regarding publications in their current phase and also regarding their near future. In the end of the session, current calls for articles for two academic peer-reviewed journals were distributed to the participants.



The session on crisis (S7/S8) had two time slots of 1h30 each and was held by Anna Åberg and Karena Kalmbach. They started by linking this session to other previous sessions, namely by discussing the three different publication genres of the texts pre-circulated for this session. Participants were asked to discuss these texts and the concepts of crisis present in each of them and think about the questions: how to relate the concept of crisis with our current work (or what other concepts that we use in our work do we need to deepen – including concepts stemming from our historical actors); what is the role of technology in relation to crisis? Should we make our research more political or more normative? Participants were asked to form groups and discuss while making a tour in Athens (in the surroundings of the University Campus), and to take a picture of something that could be framed as crisis (relating it, for instance, either to the refugee crisis in the EU borders, or with the Euro zone financial crisis), thinking about the reasons for this framing (maybe using one of the authors of the pre-circulated texts – David Runciman – proposal for thinking about crisis according to different time frames, space and relative positioning: definitional; experiential; perspectival).



The second day closed with a session on funding (S9), which was promoted by Mikael Hård, with the assistance of M. Luísa Sousa. Mikael presented funding opportunities at the European level, mostly for individual (but also some cases of collective) funding, such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, the European Research Council grants, the applications within Horizon 2020 (where the Social Sciences and the Humanities play an instrumental role), as well as at the national level, giving a special emphasis on Germany, the country he has worked in the past years. By collective brainstorming, a list of websites with academic jobs opportunities was made, followed by a discussion on transnational vs. national contexts for historical research and funding.



After the end of each of these two days, participants had dinner together in nearby restaurants.

In the last day there were sessions only in the morning before the start of the conference in the afternoon. The first session was a wrap-up session to get a feedback on the way the summer school had worked and to plan the future initiatives of the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group (more on this session below). The second session was a panel discussion titled "Europe, Borders, Technology: Ongoing Research Projects", organised by Aristotle Tympas, a pre-conference event on current research projects dealing with borders, migrations and technologies with contributions by Shahram Khosravi, Annalisa Pelizza, Dagmara Jajeśniak Quast, Aristotle Tympas, Norbert Cyrus and Klaus Weber.

## Feedback on this summer school



From the feedback received on this summer school, we draw a list of ideas that can be used for future activities.

Suggestions of things to keep:

- the informal/relaxed atmosphere;
- the balance between content and time to think and discuss (having room for informal discussions and time to process)
- giving examples of current and future research agendas;
- a session on publication strategies with a timeline of expected academic development (career development discussions and tools).

Further suggestions:

- to have a session on conference paper presentation: how to prepare it, how to pace it; how to present your PhD project in an international conference;
- to have similar sessions of presentation of research ideas/papers/projects in a “safe” environment, either pre-circulating the text or just making a presentation, and receiving comments by assigned commentators and by the other participants, as in the summer school organised in Stockholm (2015);
- while preparing the next summer school, gather suggestions on what the people who are planning to attend want to do, e.g. on what would be important for them to get feedback on;
- to have a session in which everyone presents someone else’s work;
- to discuss writing styles; tools for writing; how do they apply in each context; for national/transnational levels (audiences?).

### Next steps for the ToE Early Career Scholars' group – future initiatives

A report on this summer school will be prepared by Anna, Elitsa, Luísa and Sanne.

The next virtual meeting will occur, as happened in the previous three years, in January (2018). Patrick and Stevie are willing to help organise it. The programme of the Paris and on-line meeting held in January 2015 (organised by Anna and Frank Schipper) might serve as an example.

Anna, Ekaterina and Stevie will work on an application for funding for a workshop/summer school. One possible idea, from Ekaterina, is to apply to the STS Center of the European University of Saint Petersburg to have a workshop there.

All the participants were invited to join the google group created for the ToE Early Career Scholars' group, and managed by Anna, to enhance it as a supportive network.

Maybe the Manifesto "Quo vadis?" drafted in January 2015 could be circulated in the group as food for thoughts and discussion.